

June 18, 2004

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room TWB204
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary Dortch:

I am writing you relative to MB Docket No. 04-160, in support of the Petition for Declaratory Ruling filed by the National Association of Broadcasters.

As local broadcasters who serve the public interest by staffing our stations 24/7, we are extremely concerned about the egregious attempts by XM Radio and Sirius Satellite Radio to offer localized programming, in direct contradiction of the FCC's intent when the Commission granted licenses to XM and Sirius for a national-only service. The Commission promised to protect local broadcasting at the time XM and Sirius were licensed, and it is apparent that action must be taken now in order for that promised protection to be enforced.

Our stations provide the Columbia, SC area with local news, traffic and weather on an hourly basis. But perhaps even more importantly, our stations provide invaluable community service in the form of fund-raisers for charities; appearances by personalities at local hospitals; and hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in public service campaigns. None of this would be possible without the support of our listeners and advertisers, and that very support is threatened by the blatant attempts by XM and Sirius to circumvent the Commission's intent when it licensed these national services.

I would respectfully remind the Commission that satellite radio has no public interest considerations, no ownership limits, and above all, no investment in the well-being of the local community.

I urge the Commission to protect the viability of local broadcasting. Please end the attempts by satellite radio to encroach on the ability of local radio stations to remain financially capable of providing true local service to the communities of America.

Sincerely,

William L. McElveen
Citadel Broadcasting, Columbia, SC